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Transnational Solidarity for Peru: The Quipu Project

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TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR PERU – THE QUIPU PROJECT

ABSTRACT

Although gender-based violence was a focus for the investigation of **Peru's truth commission**, the **2003 final report excluded testimonies of over 300,000 women and men—largely from rural, poor, and indigenous communities—that were victims of coerced sterilization**. To help raise awareness and join in solidarity against the impunity of these human rights violations committed under the regime of Alberto Fujimori, **we held a screening of the interactive testimonial documentary by the Quipu Project, a multimedia exhibition, and a translation weekend** where volunteers worked collaboratively to transcribe and translate testimonies of the victims.



METHODOLOGY

The intent of this project was not just to raise awareness, but more importantly to direct that interest toward a **productive, interdisciplinary activity on campus**. One of the biggest challenges was figuring out how to maintain communication in real-time with our contacts in Peru during the translation event. We had so many volunteers that the translations were completed faster than we anticipated.

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

Without the collaboration with library staff this project wouldn't have been possible. **Gabriel Duque** was integral to developing the overall framework of our project and provided constructive feedback on our plans. The majority of the preparation was completed in the Scholar Space at Hatcher Library. **Breanna Hamm** was our main contact in **Scholar Space**, and without her expertise in Adobe Illustrator and other programs, the designs for our flyers and multimedia presentation would not have been the same.



REAL LIFE IMPACT

All the events were open to the community and we feel that, with their help, global networks of solidarity were created. **English, Spanish, & Quechua speakers engaged in discussion about the on-going consequences and future implications of sexual violence**. Not only were interdisciplinary networks strengthened within the U of M community, but we created partnerships with the Quipu Project team in Peru, Chile, and England.

Knowing that the testimonies translated during our project's events will be accessible online for 20 years is a very rewarding thought. The archival process has in Peru has been greatly biased, influenced greatly by hegemonic discourse of patriarchal narratives. The ability to guard the voices of marginalized peoples should form a part of all archival endeavors.



WHAT NEXT?

A surprising amount of participants showed interest in continuing to translate collaboratively and volunteer their time for the Quipu Project. In addition, there is a renewed desire to improve language skills or even to learn a new one.

The case of coerced sterilizations continues to be unresolved and has taken the spotlight in the country's upcoming presidential elections. **For now, all that can be done is to continue to demand justice and reparation for those who were victim to Fujimori's family planning initiatives.**

SPONSORSHIP

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